

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NEA-10 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /174 W

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R 061547Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASDC 5323

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0434

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, MT, IT, LY

SUBJ: ENERGY: OIL SUPPLIES FOR MALTA

REF: VALLETTA 0355

1. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MASSA BERNUCCI TOLD US MARCH 6 UP TO PRESENT NO RPT NO LIBYAN CRUDE HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO MONTEDISON REFINERY IN SICILY TO BE REFINED FOR MALTA. MASSA BERNICCI SAID REASON FOR THIS IS CONTINUING GOM-LIBYAN DISAGREEMENT ON PRICE. HE CLAIMED GADHAFI IS ASKING US\$12.50 PER BARREL. DURING MINTOFF'S LAST

MEETING WITH GADHAFI IN TRIPOLI GADHAFI SAID HE COULD NOT CONSIDER A LOWER PRICE UNTIL AFTER THE LAHORE ISLAMIC MEETING. AT THE SAME TIME, CLAIMS MASSA BERNUCCI, GADHAFI WAS NOT SWAYED BY MINTOFF'S CLAIM TO HAVE LAID DOWN A BASIS FOR GADHAFI'S RECONCILIATION WITH SADAT AND OTHER ARABS BEFORE LAHORE MEETING.

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2. MEANWHILE, MASSA BERNUCCI SAID THAT MONTEDISON IS PROVIDING

MALTA WITH PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR OTHER STOCKS. HE SAID ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED THIS TRANSACTION FOR PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS ONLY, AND IF NO LIBYAN CRUDE FOR MALTA ARRIVES BY MARCH 31, MONTEDISON WILL HALT ITS DELIVERIES TO MALTA. MASSA MERNUCCI SAID HE HAD SO INFORMED GOM. HE HAS HAD NO REACTION THUS FAR, PROBABLY BECAUSE MINTOFF WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR TEN DAYS AFTER HIS RECENT ACCIDENT.

3. COMMENT: WHILE MINTOFF WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE HIS BARGAINING WITH GADHAFI, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ITALIANS WOULD ACTUALLY CUT OFF MALTA'S OIL SUPPLIES ON MARCH 31 IF NO LIBYAN CRUDE HAS ARRIVED IN SICILY.GETZ

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Message Attributes

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